MARVEL 2
ZUB · IZAAKSE · TARTAGLIA
THUNDERBOLTS®
PREPARE TO MEET
EEGRO
THE UNBREAKABLE!
WHO IS THAT?
IT LITERALLY SAYS HIS NAME RIGHT IN THAT CAPTION.
TSK. C'MON, CLINT...

MARVEL
[dest_]
[_iny_]
[_of_X]
002
GILLEN
WERNECK
CURIEL
IMMORTAL X-MEN
IMMORTAL X-MEN
IMMORTAL X-MEN

THUNDERBOLTS

"COMMUNICATION ISSUES"

WHILE SERVING AS MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY, **WILSON FISK**, THE FORMER KINGPIN OF CRIME, SANCTIONED THE **THUNDERBOLTS**, A GROUP OF SUPER VILLAINS DEPUTIZED TO CARRY OUT HIS WILL. BUT NOW THAT **LUKE CAGE** IS MAYOR, HE'S LOOKING TO REDEEM THAT NAME. AND WITH **HAWKEYE** ON BOARD TO LEAD THE NEW TEAM THAT'S BEEN HAND-PICKED BY BRANDING AND MARKETING EXPERTS, WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

JIM ZUB
WRITER

SEAN IZAAKSE
ARTIST

JAVA TARTAGLIA
COLORIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

SEAN IZAAKSE & CHRIS O'HALLORAN
COVER ARTISTS

BETSY COLA; MATEUS MANHANINI; STEFANO CASELLI & FEDERICO BLEE
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ANTHONY GAMBINO
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
MARTIN BIRO & MICHELLE MARCHESE
ASSISTANT EDITORS
ANNALISE BISSA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT with WIL MOSS
EDITORS
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Krakoa.
So, good news/ bad news.
Good news: They voted me onto the council.
Bad news?
Now this is *my* problem.

GOOOD MID-MORNING, BOLTEROOS!
I SLEPT LIKE CRAP, SO I GRABBED COFFEE TO GET US ALL GOING BEFORE WE START TRAINING.
CLINT! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOU DIDN'T CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE, DID YOU?

9:00 A.M.
PRE-PRESS REVIEW WITH HELEN AND HARRIS.
9:30 A.M.
PRESS CONFERENCE.
DAILY BUGLE
THUNDER-BLUNDER!

THERE'S A SCHEDULE? SERIOUSLY?
IT'S AFTER TEN NOW, SO YOU JUST CALLED THAT WHOLE THING OFF, RIGHT, HELEN?
RIGHT?

YOUR PRESS AWAITS, HAWKEYE.
MAYOR CAGE HAS BEEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS.
YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW MUCH HE LOVES THAT.
Oh @#$%--

I NEED YOU TO CRANK UP WHATEVER CHARM YOU HAVE IN THAT BOW-SLINGING BRAIN OF YOURS AND DAZZLE THOSE SOULLESS MEDIA HOUNDS, OKAY?
DAZZLE!
OKAAAY--

[00_mutants_of_X]
[00_the_world__X]

IMMORTAL

HERE COMES THE HARVEST

The island-nation of Krakoa was founded under the idea of mutant sovereignty and is governed over by the collective known as the Quiet Council. The departure of Magneto has left a seat open and many mutants, including Selene Gallio, have been vying for the spot. However, her campaign for the position was unsuccessful as Hope Summers put forward her own name for candidacy. A poor winner and an even worse loser, Selene has made her displeasure at this decision well-known...

Meanwhile, amid the chaos, Sinister continues to scheme.

[AUTUMN]

[PROFESSOR X]

[HOPE SUMMERS]

[DESTINY]

[SUMMER]

[NIGHTCRAWLER]

[STORM]

[COLOSSUS]

[SPRING]

[EMMA FROST]

[SEBASTIAN SHAW]

[KATE PRYDE]

[WINTER]

[EXODUS]

[MISTER SINISTER]

[MYSTIQUE]

Kieron Gillen/Writer
Lucas Werneck/Artist
David Curiel/Color Artist
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer
Tom Muller/Design

Mark Brooks/Cover Artist

Jay Bowen &
VC's Clayton Cowles/Production
Lauren Amaro/Assistant Editor
Jordan D. White/Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

Kaare Andrews [Spider-Man];
Phil Noto [Quiet Council];
Rod Reis
/Variant Cover Artists

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[00_mutants_of_X]
[00_the_world__X]

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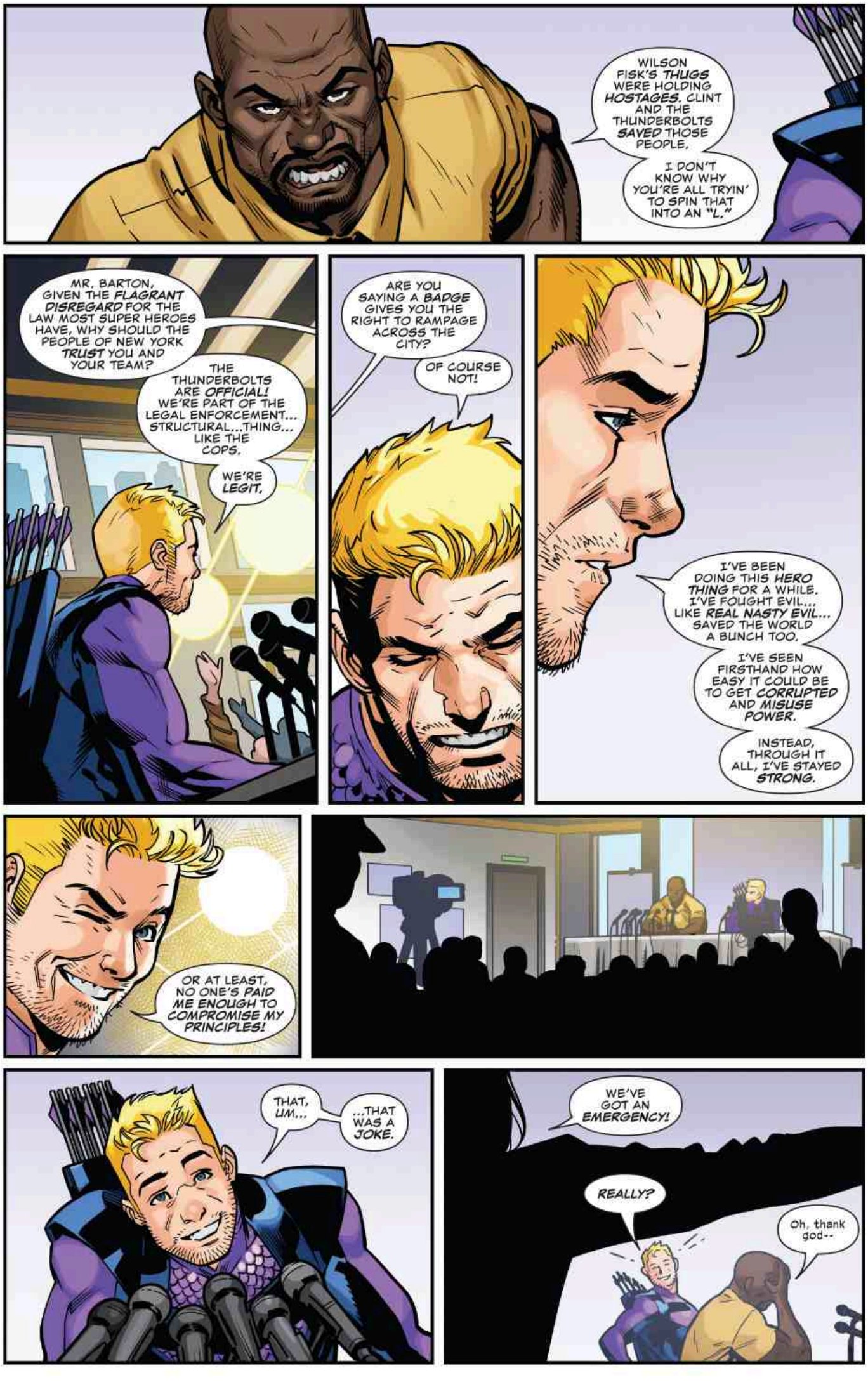
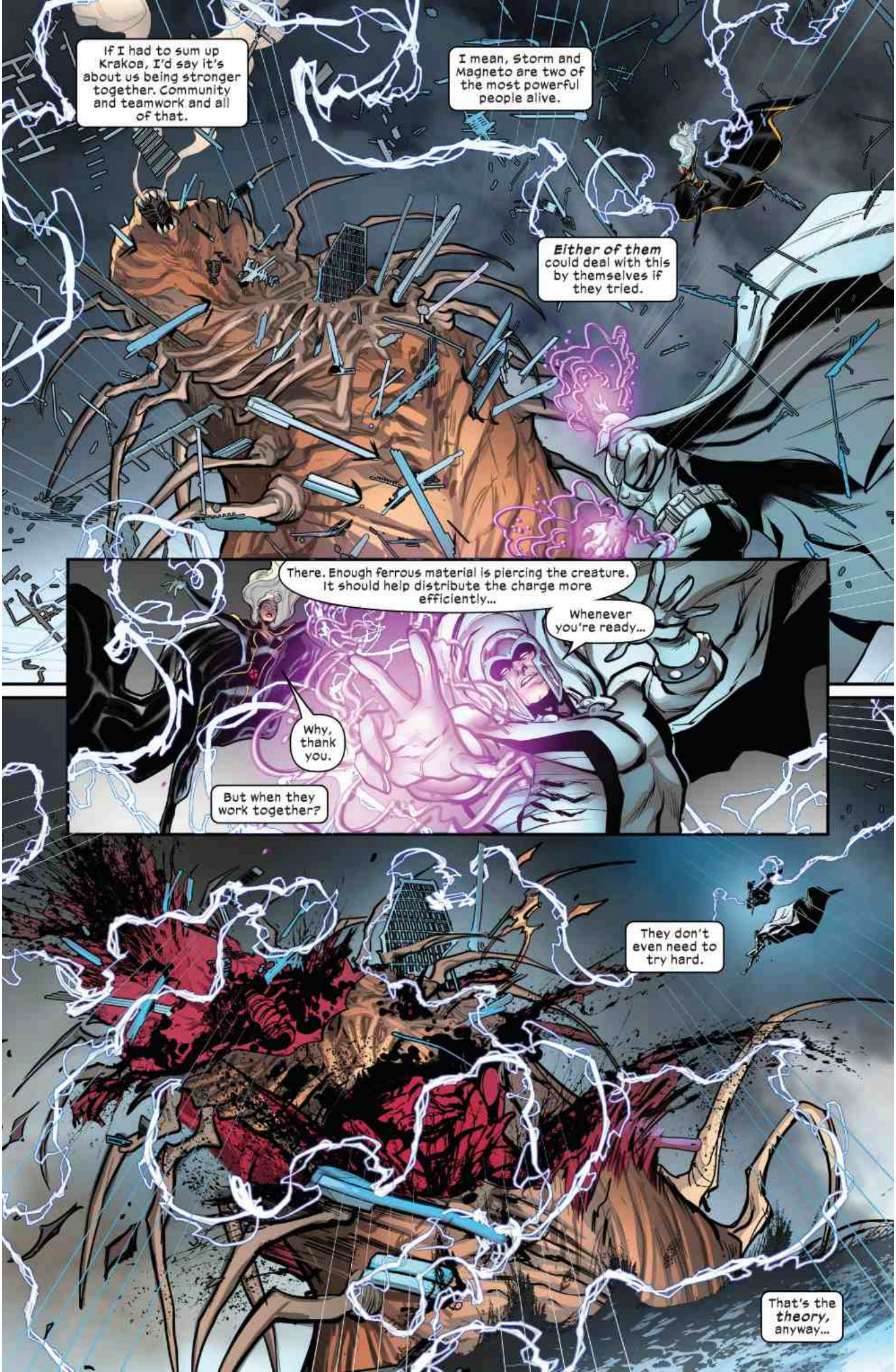
MAYOR CAGE, WITH SO MANY *POWERFUL HEROES* IN THE CITY, WHY IS *HAWKEYE* THE MOST *QUALIFIED* PERSON TO LEAD THIS THUNDERBOLTS TEAM?
GOOD QUESTION.
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE MAN HIMSELF?
I, UH... BROUGHT COFFEE...
THUNDERBOLTS
COMMUNICATION ISSUES

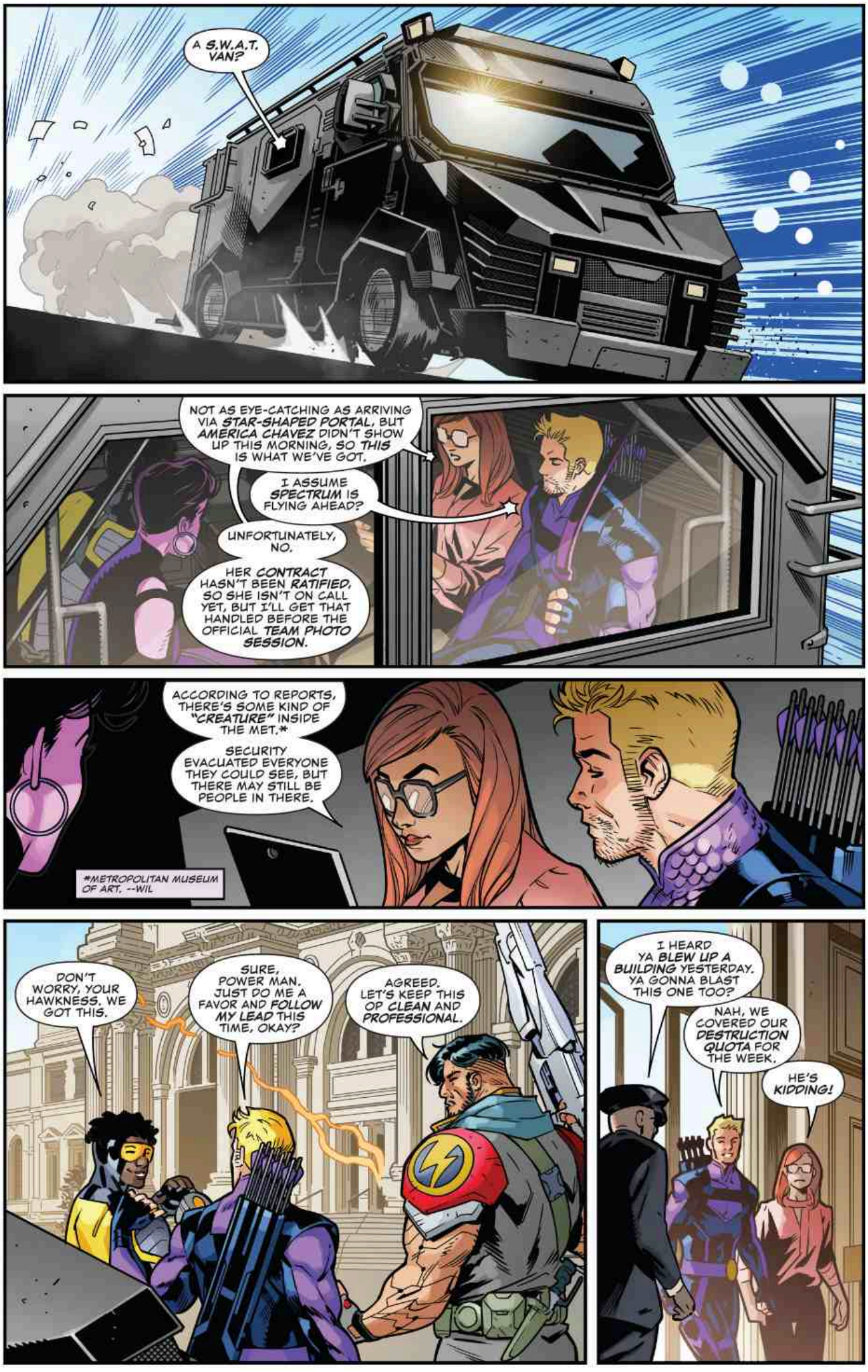
Selene! Animating the Arakko gate into a monstrosity out of a fit of pique is beneath you. This is--
Consequences, Charles. Just consequences.
I'll leave you to stew in them and be in contact when you've had a chance to reconsider.
London.
Welcome, Selene.
As promised, Coven Akkaba offers you the protection of her majesty's government.
Can we do anything to make you comfortable?
Hmm...how do I want to pass the time until Krakoan resolve crumbles...?
Well, as we *are* in England, I'd love an Earl Grey...
Either the tea or an actual gray-haired earl.
I'm not picky.

HEY, EVERYONE.
UH...
G-GOOD TO SEE YOU!
Sorry, Luke.
Uh-huh.
SLUU-URP
AS YOU MAY KNOW, I'VE PREVIOUSLY LED A BUNCH OF EXCELLENT TEAMS, MOST NOTABLY THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, THE NEW AVENGERS AND THE SECRET AVENGERS.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE "SECRET AVENGERS."
THAT'S 'CAUSE THEY WERE A SECRET...
...SO DON'T TELL ANYBODY.
AND YET, YOU'VE ALSO FOUND YOURSELF ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW, HAVEN'T YOU?
THIS BUSINESS CAN GET TRICKY IN SPOTS, BUT I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
DOES DOING THE "RIGHT THING" INCLUDE KICKING A HERO IN THE FACE AND DESTROYING PUBLIC PROPERTY?
FIRST OFF, I THOUGHT JOHN WALKER WAS A BAD GUY.
HONEST MISTAKE.
IF YOU EVER TALK TO HIM, YOU'LL SEE WHY.
SECOND, WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING SUPER VILLAINS, SOMETIMES THINGS GET BUSTED.
PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN STUFF, RIGHT?

The instincts are still there, like they've never been away.
Being a leader.
Proteus, get folks safe! Everyone else, fall back!
Get to safety!
You know-- shouting stuff and expecting people to obey.
I've been other things. Doctor. Superstar. Or...
...the "M" word that Exodus just loves saying.
That isn't me. *This* is.
What about you?
I took the leadership job, so I need to be out there leading.
I'll be fine!
My hand moves to a pistol that isn't there.
Why did I stop carrying?
When did I get so soft?
That's over now.
Hmm. While I know the captains will handle this, I suspect a show of strength by the administration would be timely.
Both the ***present*** administration and the outgoing...
I suppose it's lucky I ***didn't*** just leave in a huff, yes?
You're better than that, Erik. And you were never going to leave ***quietly.***
You'd want something for people to remember you by.
You think me so cynical, Storm?


WILSON FISK'S THUGS WERE HOLDING HOSTAGES. CLINT AND THE THUNDERBOLTS SAVED THOSE PEOPLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL TRYIN' TO SPIN THAT INTO AN "L."
MR. BARTON, GIVEN THE FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THE LAW MOST SUPER HEROES HAVE, WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK TRUST YOU AND YOUR TEAM?
THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE OFFICIAL! WE'RE PART OF THE LEGAL ENFORCEMENT... STRUCTURAL...THING... LIKE THE COPS.
WE'RE LEGIT.
ARE YOU SAYING A BADGE GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO RAMPAGE ACROSS THE CITY?
OF COURSE NOT!
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS HERO THING FOR A WHILE. I'VE FOUGHT EVIL... LIKE REAL NASTY EVIL... SAVED THE WORLD A BUNCH TOO.
I'VE SEEN FIRSTHAND HOW EASY IT COULD BE TO GET CORRUPTED AND MISUSE POWER.
INSTEAD, THROUGH IT ALL, I'VE STAYED STRONG.
OR AT LEAST, NO ONE'S PAID ME ENOUGH TO COMPROMISE MY PRINCIPLES!
THAT, UM...
...THAT WAS A JOKE.
WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY!
REALLY?
Oh, thank god--


If I had to sum up Krakoa, I'd say it's about us being stronger together. Community and teamwork and all of that.
I mean, Storm and Magneto are two of the most powerful people alive.
Either of them could deal with this by themselves if they tried.
There. Enough ferrous material is piercing the creature. It should help distribute the charge more efficiently...
Whenever you're ready...
Why, thank you.
But when they work together?
They don't even need to try hard.
That's the *theory*, anyway...


A S.W.A.T. VAN?
NOT AS EYE-CATCHING AS ARRIVING VIA STAR-SHAPED PORTAL, BUT AMERICA CHAVEZ DIDN'T SHOW UP THIS MORNING, SO THIS IS WHAT WE'VE GOT.
I ASSUME SPECTRUM IS FLYING AHEAD?
UNFORTUNATELY, NO.
HER CONTRACT HASN'T BEEN RATIFIED, SO SHE ISN'T ON CALL YET, BUT I'LL GET THAT HANDLED BEFORE THE OFFICIAL TEAM PHOTO SESSION.
ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THERE'S SOME KIND OF "CREATURE" INSIDE THE MET.*
SECURITY EVACUATED EVERYONE THEY COULD SEE, BUT THERE MAY STILL BE PEOPLE IN THERE.
*METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. --WIL
DON'T WORRY, YOUR HAWKNESS. WE GOT THIS.
SURE, POWER MAN. JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND FOLLOW MY LEAD THIS TIME, OKAY?
AGREED. LET'S KEEP THIS OP CLEAN AND PROFESSIONAL.
I HEARD YA BLEW UP A BUILDING YESTERDAY. YA GONNA BLAST THIS ONE TOO?
NAH, WE COVERED OUR DESTRUCTION QUOTA FOR THE WEEK.
HE'S KIDDING!

It wouldn't be the X-Men if we didn't have complications.
Everyone--listen! Destiny is getting somewhat frantic. Let me link her to you.
This is a mistake. Futures...reality... warping. I feel sick. I...
...Distortion. I...
Just STOP!
Selene's beast is re-forming.
It needs another charge, Ororo.
Emma. Listen to me. Speak to the scientists. Get a sci--
SCIENCE IS HERE! DOCTOR NEMESIS CALLING!
Look--it's simple. For me. So it's complicated. For you.
The beastie connects multiple dimensions. Hurting it is damaging space in the area. The gateways. Connections to Otherworld. Everything.
You destroy it, all that goes boom-boom.
By the Goddess.
The lightning cuts off as if someone pulls the plug...
The beast lurches up.
The crowd I'm leading does the sensible thing.

QUICK SCANNER SWEEP INDICATES FIVE HEAT SIGNATURES UP AHEAD.
DAMN. ANOTHER HOSTAGE SITUATION.
GET ME CLOSE, AND I'LL USE MY PURPLE POWER TO CONVINCE WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THIS IS TO LET THEM GO.
ARE YOU REALLY CALLING IT "PURPLE POWER"?
IT'S... IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS.
HERE BE MONSTERS
The Sculptures of Alicia Masters
ARE YOU SEEIN' THIS?!
C!EMGT MEDCGMCG SYM!EMS MKKSE DIEG SMZCE
YAAAy!

It panics.
Hope! You must come with me! You are too important to risk yourself! You are the lamb of Krakoa!
I don't bleat, and I'm not leaving anyone behind!
Even I can't protect them all.
You can't. I can.
Your gift means you're more powerful the more people believe in you, so I can--
What?!
You didn't know? When we first met and I took your powers, I just saw it.
Er...sorry? I'm a crappy messiah.
You speak to me and it is a revelation. You speak to me and I see myself clearer. You speak and show me a path from which I've strayed.
There is nothing "crappy" about you, messiah.

CHILDREN, I NEED YOU TO STEP AWAY FROM THE TROLL-DOLL-DWARF-CREEP.
STOP MELTING TH--
UNNH--!
AH #$@%! WE TICKED HIM OFF.
POWER MAN! GET HIM AWAY FROM THE KIDS!
ON IT!
M

Okay. Knock it off. Yeah, yeah, I'm pretty hot stuff.
But... *my thing* is mimicking powers...
...and people believe in me much more than they believe in you, right?
So together...
Exodus thinks I'm a messiah. I'm not having that...
...but he did say I was such a key part of Krakoa that I had to be on the council.
Part of me hates that I couldn't find a way to disagree with him.
And Dad didn't raise a shirker.
No complaints. Sit up straight. Save-the-world time.
I guess that makes me a believer too.
Just not like Exodus.
He's %$#@&$# nuts.

CRASH
Aw, for @#$%'s sake...
DON'T HURT HIM!
HE'S COOL!
HE'S OUR FRIEND!
PERSUASION... KARA! ARE YOU OKAY?
STAY DOWN, LI'L DUDE!
I DON'T WANNA--
WHAM

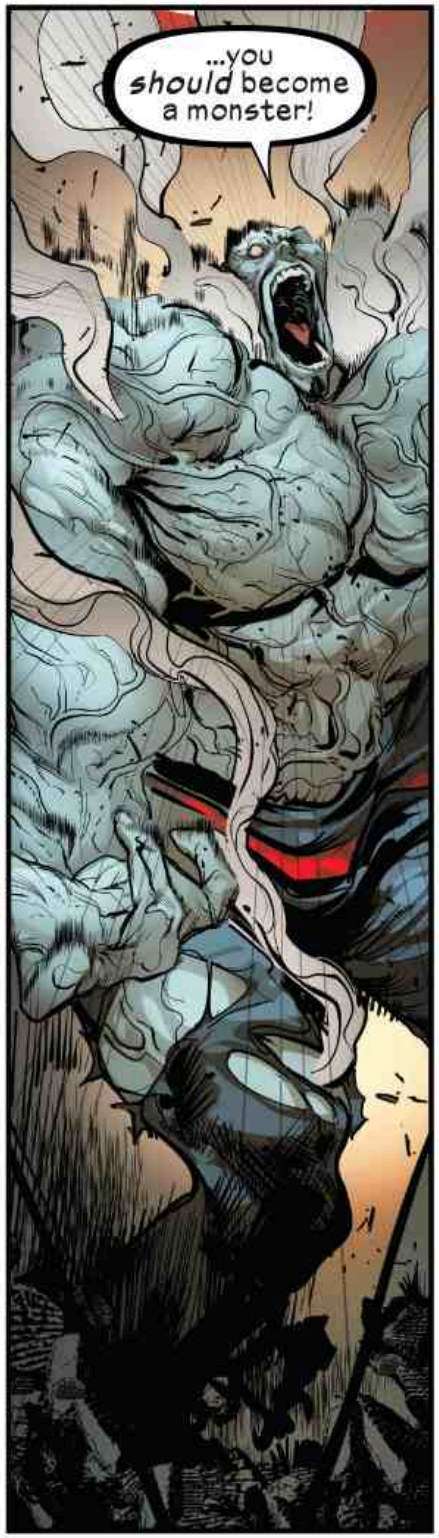
He's not exactly alone in *that*.
Oh, poot.
One must save the day.
Open the gene closet!
Heh. I make some jokes and people presume *I'm* a joke.
Some of the thickos may even forget some of the gifts I once gave myself.
It's a shame I have to remind them exactly what Sinister can be...

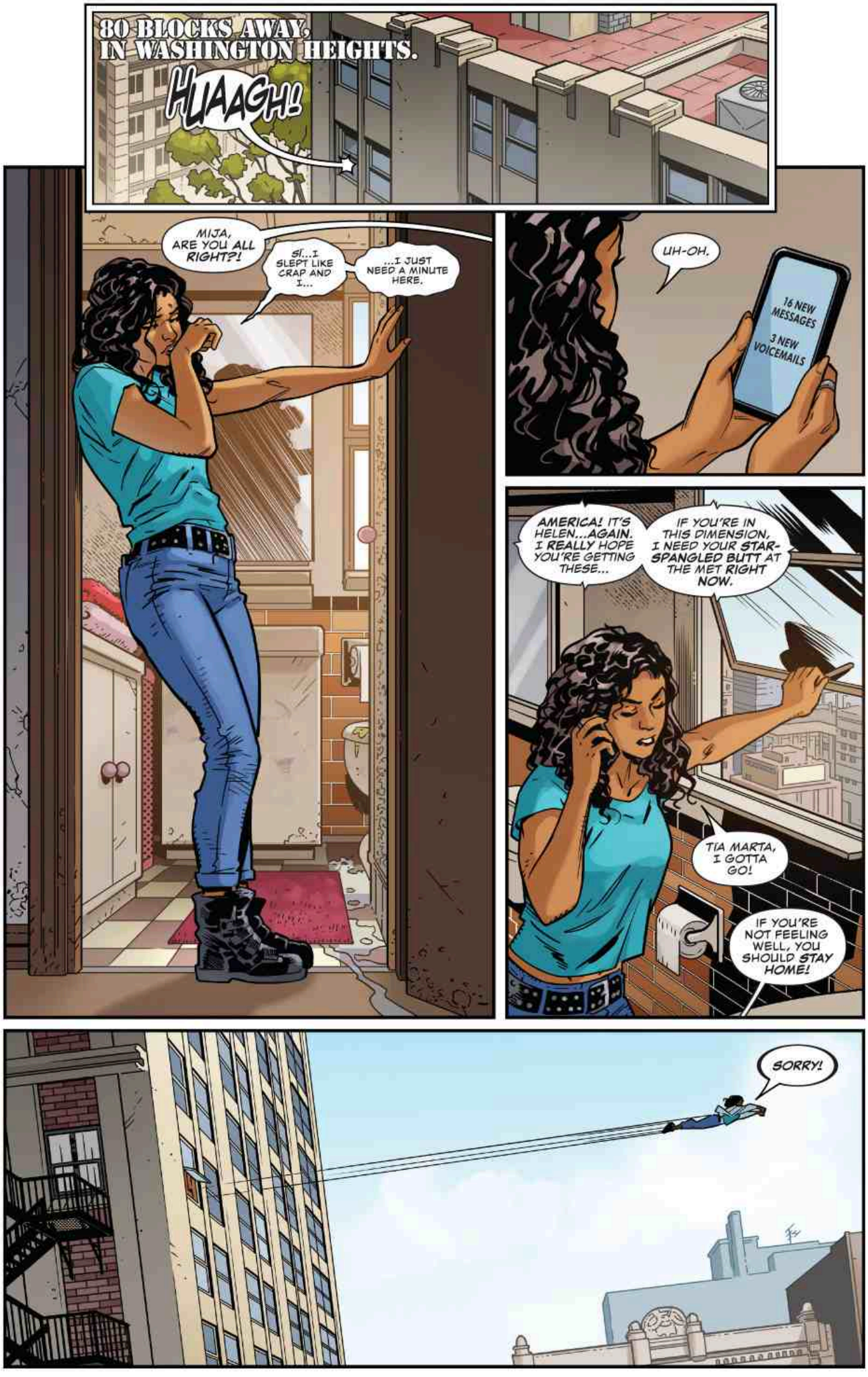
I THINK MY KIDS ARE IN THERE!
YOUR KIDS? HOW MANY ARE WE TALKIN' ABOUT HERE?
FOUR FIRST GRADERS! THE ALARM WENT OFF AND THEY RAN!
I KNOW IT'S SCARY, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE THUNDERBOLTS WILL STOP THIS THREAT AND MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS ARE--
BAM
KRO000M
--safe.

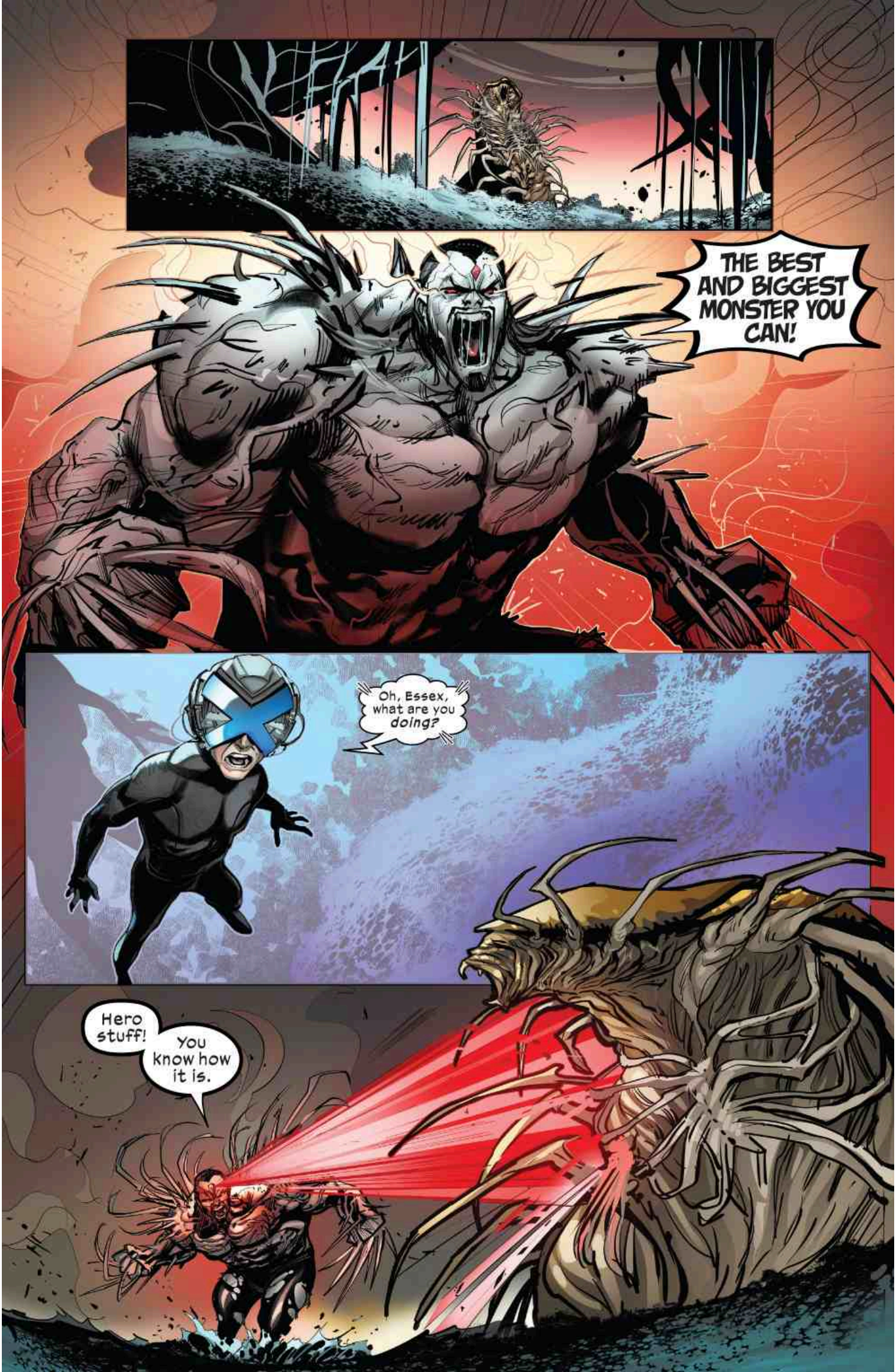
"Fight not with monsters in case you become a monster"?
Ptth.

Nietzche was an idiot!
SZZ ZZZIP!

If you fight with monsters...


...you *should* become a monster!


80 BLOCKS AWAY, IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS.
HUAAGH!
MIJA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SÍ...I SLEPT LIKE CRAP AND I...
...I JUST NEED A MINUTE HERE.
UH-OH.
16 NEW MESSAGES
3 NEW VOICEMAILS
AMERICA! IT'S HELEN...AGAIN. I REALLY HOPE YOU'RE GETTING THESE...
IF YOU'RE IN THIS DIMENSION, I NEED YOUR STAR-SPANGLED BUTT AT THE MET RIGHT NOW.
TÍA MARTA, I GOTTA GO!
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, YOU SHOULD STAY HOME!
SORRY!


THE BEST AND BIGGEST MONSTER YOU CAN!
Oh, Essex, what are you doing?
Hero stuff!
You know how it is.

TARGET IN MY SIGHTS.
FIRING.
NO!
DON'T DO IT!
GADOOM...
ZARK
SLAM
SLAM
WAIT A SEC, I THINK PERSUASION AND THE TROLL ARE MINDLINKED!
IF WE CAN TALK TO HIM, MAYBE WE CAN DE-ESCALATE THIS #$@%.
REALLY?

But what *is* it?
An experiment. Early chimera prototype. It's a lot of mutant genes messed together, merged with an MGH-base and some Arakkii spice...
Don't worry. This is the bespoke genetic-suit end of my work. It's completely unstable, and it took me weeks of work to even make this dose.
Also, there's significant teething problems, and not just the fact it's growing actual teeth from every single orifice at a rate I can only describe as "Cronenbergian"...
Nathaniel.
Are you going to cause a disaster worse than the disaster we were facing?
No. I'm going to get the Kaiju clear of the island. But in--*oooh*--about six seconds, I'm going to need a rescue.
This wonderful beastie I'm embedded in is going to dissolve or possibly explod--

SMASH
SMASH
OKAY, AMERICA, YOU GOT HIM.
TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH.
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
STOP! STOP!!!
HE'S ALREADY DEAD!

That should slow you down a little until you re-form. And--
Oh *my*. What an impressive rate of regeneration! You're going to be back to chewing up people soon enough and--
I'm still out here.
Oh. *Er*...I don't suppose you want to talk?
No, more of an eater, I bet.
BAMF
BAMF
Hmm. Shouldn't I have a hero moment, Kurt? Crowds applauding, palms cast at my feet, grateful fans...?
You would if you were a hero.

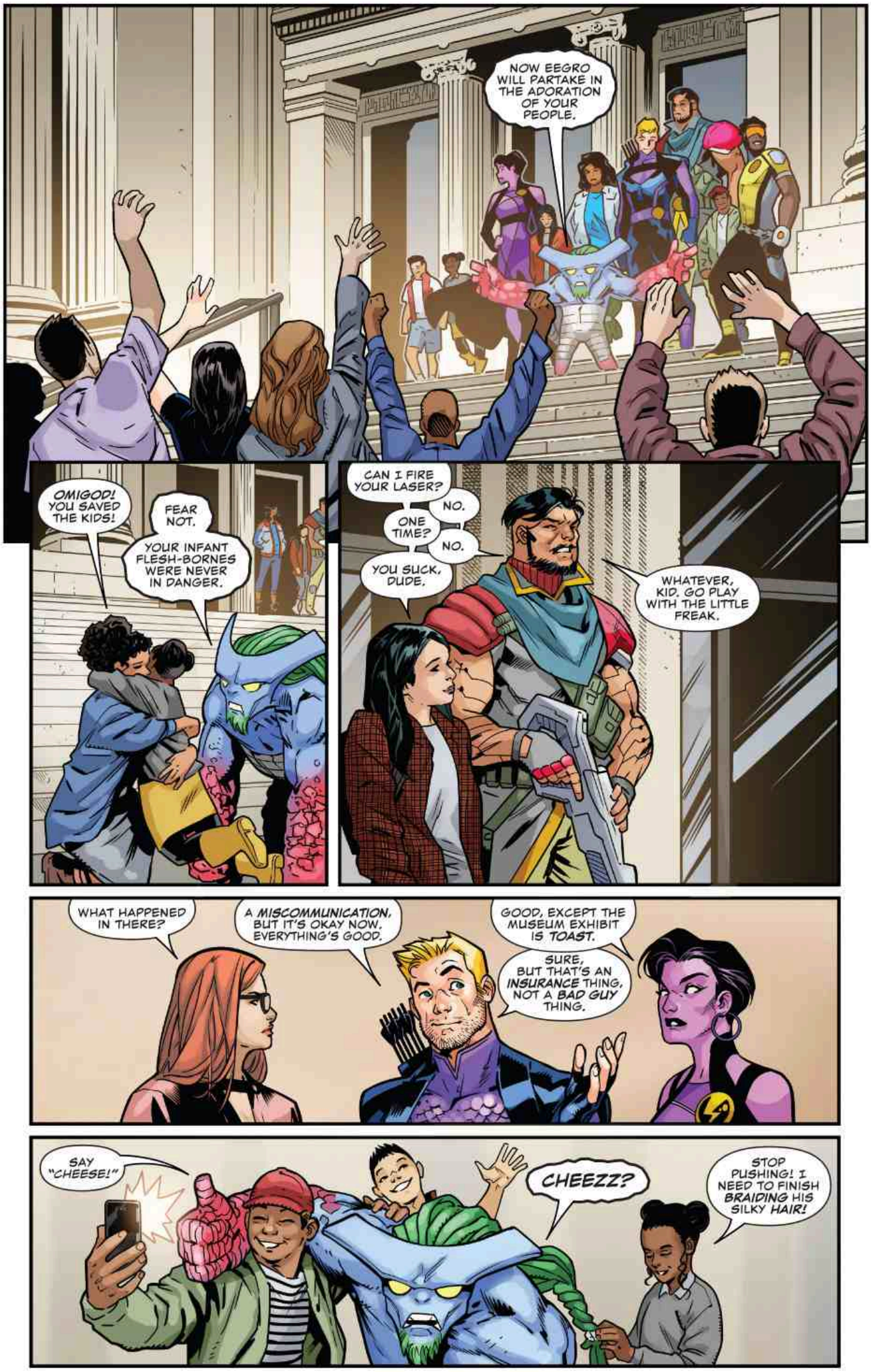
WE DONE?
...EEGRO YIELDS, FOR NOW.
KARA, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I...I THINK SO.
WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE CONTROL OF HIM, MY MIND FLOODED WITH WEIRD %$@%.
BUT ONCE WE SORTED IT OUT, HE TAPPED INTO OUR LANGUAGE.
WELL DONE, FLESH-BORNE ANIMAL.
YOU ARE STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER FLESH-BORNE ANIMAL EEGRO HAS YET FACED IN
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
YOU ALMOST MADE EEGRO UNLEASH THE ULTIMATE ATTACK.
LET'S NOT UNLEASH ANY MORE ATTACKS, ULTIMATE OR OTHERWISE.
MY NAME'S HAWKEYE AND THIS IS AMERICA CHAVEZ.
DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS EGO?
EEGRO THE UNBREAKABLE.
WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU DOING HERE?
EEGRO TRAVELED FROM MONSTER ISLE TO SEE HIS STATUE IN PERSON AND ENSURE THAT IT CAPTURED HIS TRUE BEAUTY.
CORRECT, BUT THERE WAS NO EEGRO IDOL AT ALL.
SUCH AN INSULT COULD NOT BE IGNORED.
EEGRO THANKS YOU FOR HELPING DESTROY THE IDOLS OF THESE FEEBLE OTHER CREATURES.

Touché. But...while I cannot change my history, you should realize I am as committed to Krakoa as anyone.
We at least bought it a reprieve together today.
You may not be grateful to me, but I am grateful to you. Thank you for the rescue.
Well done.
You bought us time.

God above, people who think the best of people are just the *easiest*.
Emergency council meeting.
I've prepared the chambers, if you'll join us...

Sorry for taking the initiative, but I thought speed more important than decorum.
We have decisions to make.
Oh, I understand it entirely.

"To me, *my* Quiet Council."


NOW EEGRO WILL PARTAKE IN THE ADORATION OF YOUR PEOPLE.
OMIGOD! YOU SAVED THE KIDS!
FEAR NOT.
YOUR INFANT FLESH-BORNES WERE NEVER IN DANGER.
CAN I FIRE YOUR LASER?
NO.
ONE TIME?
NO.
YOU SUCK, DUDE.
WHATEVER, KID. GO PLAY WITH THE LITTLE FREAK.
WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE?
A *MISCOMMUNICATION*, BUT IT'S OKAY NOW. EVERYTHING'S GOOD.
GOOD, EXCEPT THE MUSEUM EXHIBIT IS *TOAST*.
SURE, BUT THAT'S AN *INSURANCE* THING, NOT A *BAD GUY* THING.
SAY "CHEESE!"
CHEEZZ?
STOP PUSHING! I NEED TO FINISH *BRAIDING* HIS SILKY *HAIR!*

SELECTED MINUTES OF THE QUIET COUNCIL EMERGENCY SESSION (CODE: EXTERNAL GATE EMERGENCY)

As if I would make jokes at a time like this. I also don't think it's time for you to score petty political points, Emma. This is not my council. It is ***ours.***

Especially as you voted for rejecting Selene, Emma.

That ***was*** a petty political point.

Can we save this? We need to move. What is this tantrum of Selene's meant to prove?

It proves her point: We ***are*** vulnerable to magic.

Hmm...how about Magik on the council?

No. She is enjoying being captain far too much. She is not one for such meetings.

That is a conversation for another time -- perhaps when Selene's creature isn't chittering toward us.

What's the plan here?

The captains will try and slow it without destroying it. We will reach out to Selene and see what else she wants, and work out a way to satisfy her.

Are there Summers protocols for something like this?

Oh, please. It's ***Scott.*** What do ***you*** think?

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID...
SOMEONE CALL MY NAME?
NO! I WAS JUST... I WAS...
AW DAMN, MAN. I WAS HIDING OUT 'CAUSE I GOT MY ASS WHUPPED.
HEY, VICTOR.
THINGS HAVE GONE SO QUICKLY THESE PAST TWO DAYS THAT WE'VE BARELY TALKED.
I KNOW, AND I...
...I'M SORRY I KEEP SCREWING UP.
DID I ASK FOR AN APOLOGY?
NO, BUT...
...I MEAN, I DID SCREW UP, SO...
BECAUSE YOU GOT PUNCHED REALLY HARD? SOMETIMES THAT IS THE JOB.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW STEROID YODA WAS GONNA WALLOP YOU.
YOU DID YOUR BEST. I'M JUST THANKFUL YOU WERE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE THE BIG HIT AND GET BACK UP.
WHEN I JOINED THE AVENGERS, I WAS A COCKY ARCHER BOY ON A TEAM WITH AMERICA'S SUPER-SOLDIER, THE FASTEST GUY EVER AND A MYSTIC WHO COULD ALTER REALITY.
I KNOW HOW IT FEELS WHEN YOU WANT TO PROVE YOURSELF.
FER REAL?
ABSOLUTELY.
I...I JUST NEVER WANNA SEE THAT LI'L JERK AGAIN.
I'M WITH YOU THERE.
MONSTERS SUCK.

SUMMERS PROTOCOL: "DELAYING KAIJU"

Reminder: A Kaiju is defined as any aggressive ultra-fauna the size of a ten-story building up to that of a skyscraper. For any ultra-fauna smaller than that, see "GIANTS" protocols. For any ultra-fauna larger than that, see "CELESTIALS" protocols.

You have my sympathies. At the most conservative estimate, any Kaiju-classified beast has huge potential for harm, and swift neutralization is the preferred tactic (see: the X-Mech). However, for many reasons -- not least ethical (see: "Misunderstood Kaiju") -- this may not be possible. Instead, here we look to avoid harm, both to areas/peoples of strategic importance in the area and the Kaiju itself.

1. Luring. This can be performed by any individual, but a power set of flight is a sound basis. See appendix "ANGELS" for a list of Krakoan citizens with applicable gifts. Those who die in this tactic should be prioritized in the queue.
2. Removal. Dimensional transportation of a Kaiju can prove difficult. Even aside from its sheer mass, it is often defended by other mechanisms (see footnotes). Equally, it is mainly better to keep the Kaiju in the locale rather than remove it entirely. Remember: Yes, it is near us, but we are also near it. It should be afraid of us. Sadly, most Kaiju have too limited intelligence to realize this.
3. Thirdly, experiment with barrier generation. See appendix "ICEMEN" for a list of Krakoan citizens with such gifts. Mutants with these capacities can be rotated to delay the Kaiju until a more permanent solution is found.

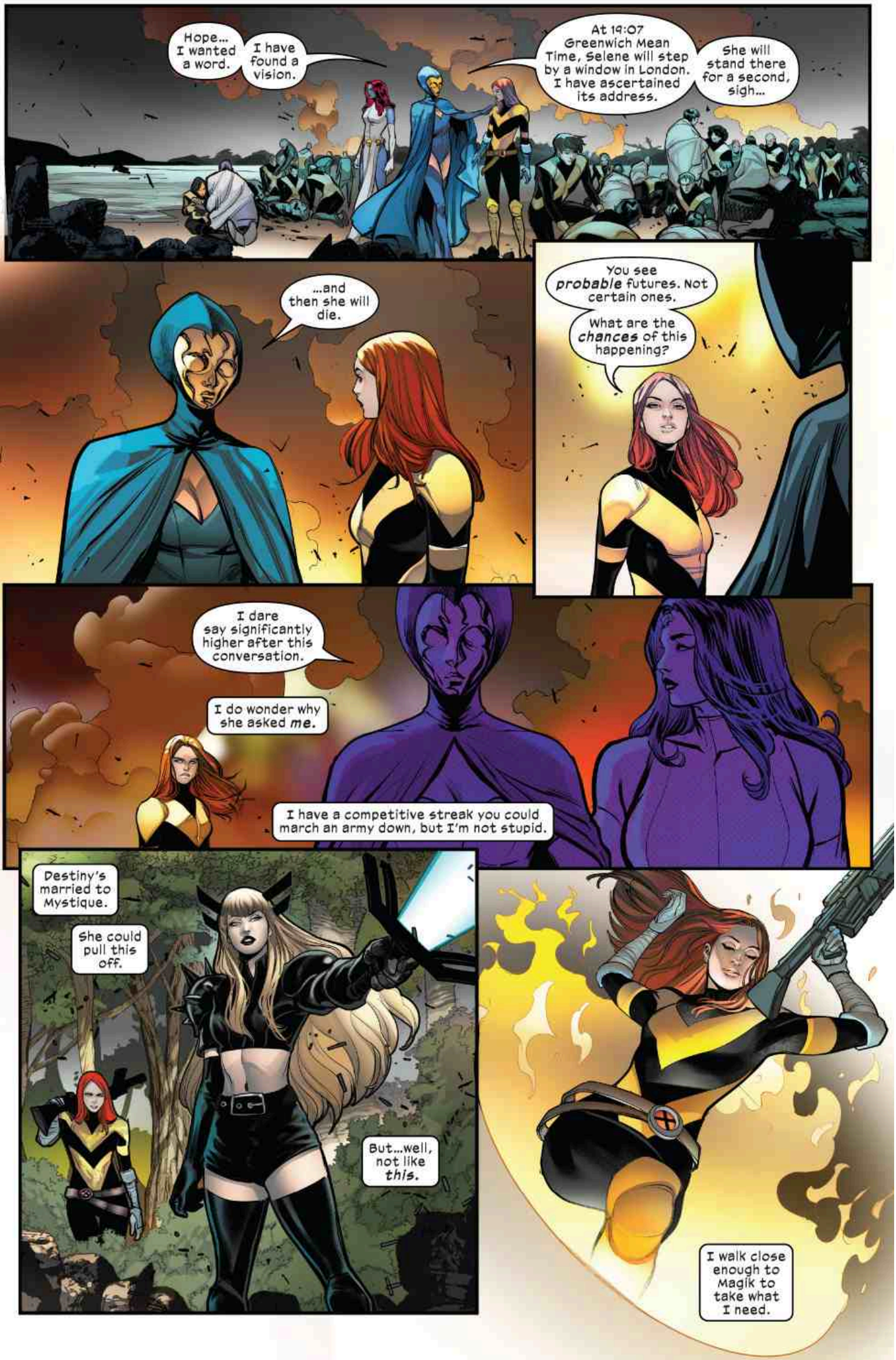
Footnotes:

- If the Kaiju is supernatural, cross-reference with the Supernatural protocols (see Volume 5).
- If the Kaiju is specifically an atomic lizard, see the mad science protocols (see Volume 6).
- If the Kaiju is actually a robot, see Sentinels protocols (see Volumes 7-15). Also, see page 3, chapter 1, entitled "You Are Unsuitable For Command At This Time. Please Pass Command To Someone Who Can Recognize A Sentinel."
- If the Kaiju is actually Krakoa itself, note that direct conflict risks contradicting the third law. Only engage with Krakoa respectfully.

--OUR NEWEST THUNDERBOLTS MEMBER...
...EEGRO!
EEGRO THE UNBREAKABLE.
WHAT?! NO!
YOU CAN'T JUST ADD HIM TO THE TEAM!
I'M THE LEADER!

YOU'RE OUR "FIELD LEADER" DURING THUNDERBOLTS MISSIONS, BUT HARRIS AND I HANDLE ADMIN, INCLUDING RECRUITMENT.
EEGRO IS INCREDIBLY STRONG...
WE HAVE TWO STRONGS ALREADY!
...AND ALSO UNIQUELY APPEALING TO CHILDREN!
WHO THE #$@% CARES ABOUT THAT?!

MAYOR CAGE'S CONSTITUENTS CARE, CLINT! THIS TEAM HAS TO WORK ACROSS A BROAD DEMOGRAPHIC RANGE!
I'M GOOD WITH KIDS! KIDS #$@% LOVE ME!
NOT WHEN YOU KEEP SAYING #$@%!
#$@%!
WELCOME ABOARD, MR. UNBREAKABLE.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, FLESH-BORNE MIND WITCH.


Hope... I wanted a word.
I have found a vision.
At 19:07 Greenwich Mean Time, Selene will step by a window in London. I have ascertained its address.
She will stand there for a second, sigh...
...and then she will die.
You see *probable* futures. Not certain ones.
What are the *chances* of this happening?
I dare say significantly higher after this conversation.
I do wonder why she asked *me*.
I have a competitive streak you could march an army down, but I'm not stupid.
Destiny's married to Mystique.
She could pull this off.
But...well, not like *this*.
I walk close enough to Magik to take what I need.

DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?
NOT AT ALL, MONICA, YOU'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE FOR THE TEAM PHOTO.
I'M SURPRISED YOU SIGNED UP FOR THIS, CHAVEZ. IT'S A FAR CRY FROM OUR DAYS ON THE ULTIMATES...
I KNOW, BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED, SO THIS WILL DO FOR NOW.*
YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE... JUST...JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
*AS SHOWN IN THE AMERICA CHAVEZ: MADE IN AMERICA MINISERIES. --WIL
YO, CAN WE GET THIS DONE? I'VE GOT A WEDDING RECEPTION I GOTTA SHOOT AT 8:00.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. STOP SULKING.
EVERYBODY SMILE OR I'LL PURPLE YOUR BRAIN AND DO IT FOR YOU.
READY? THREE, TWO, ONE...

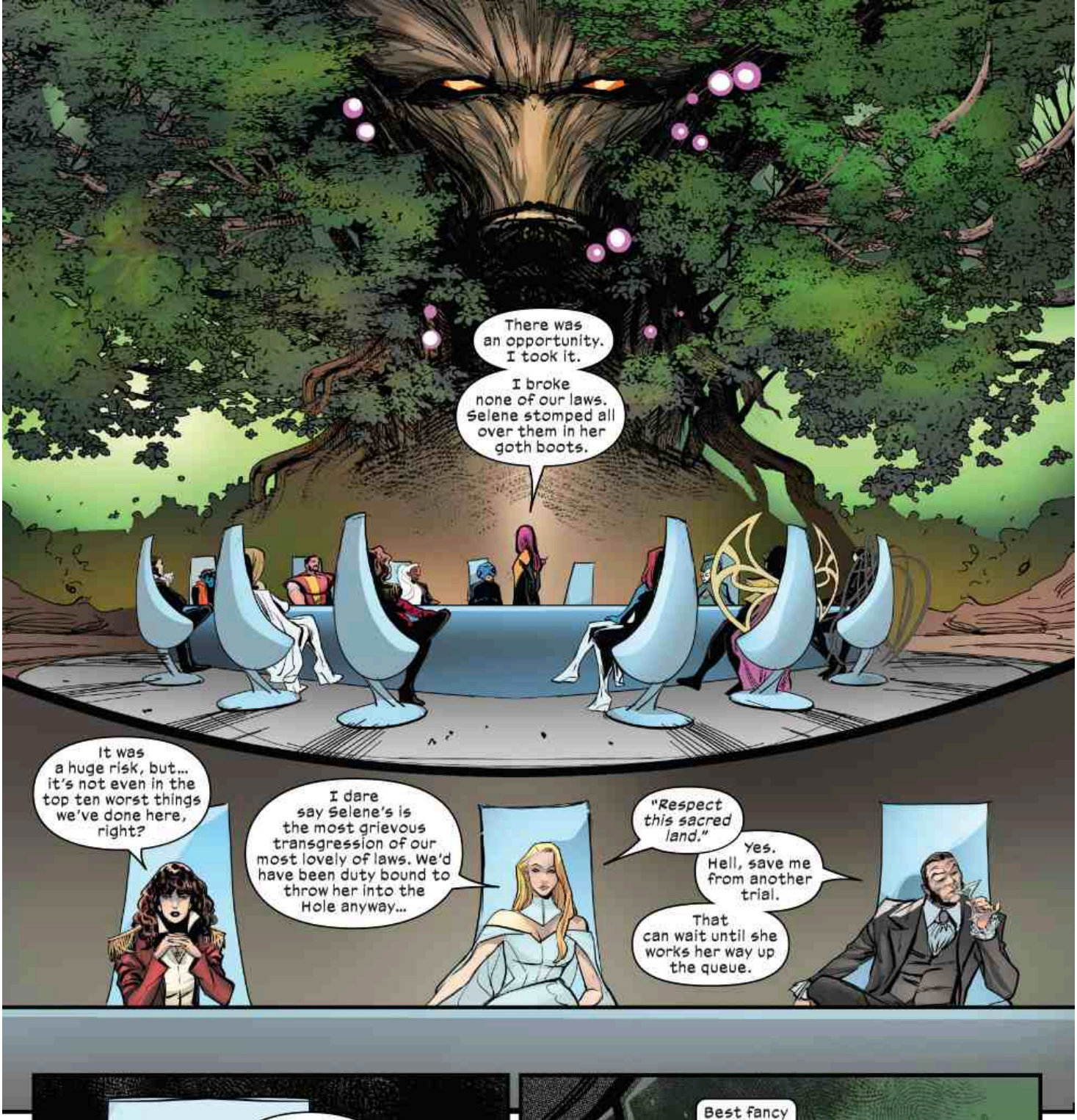
...And then I have seconds.
My gift lets me use the powers I take as well as the people I lift them from...
...but this trick with the disks is only half of it.
The mutants have requested your demands, Selene.
Ah, excellent.
This shot?
Not many people could make this one.
It's nearly impossible.
You'd need to be trained from birth by the greatest soldier of all time to pull this one off.

Thanks, Dad.
A bullet wouldn't normally kill Selene, with all the vampire-y, magic-ward, External bull.
There's this new metal we've found. Mysterium. All manner of fancy effects, but most of all?
Antimagic.
I'll spare you the conservation-of-momentum tricks I had to pull to avoid splatting. Yo-yo teleportation.
It's undignified. That said...

WHO THE HECK PUTS A BAR IN THEIR OFFICE?
HELEN SAID THEY GOT A GOOD DEAL ON THE LEASE FROM SOME TECH BROS.
FIGURES.
TOUGH DAY?
NAH. NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.
CHEERS.
CLINK
THAT SAID, WE COULD'VE USED YOU TODAY.
THE LITTLE CREEPER GAVE US TROUBLE BEFORE HELEN SPONTANEOUSLY DECIDED HE WAS ON THE TEAM.
YOU COULD'VE CALLED IF YOU NEEDED HELP.
HELEN SAID THEY HAD TO FINALIZE YOUR CONTRACT.
WHATEVER.
I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR MONEY OR A 401K, CLINT.
COOL, SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'M JUST STICKIN' AROUND TO FIX THINGS WHEN YOU #@$% UP.
HEH.
...
WAIT A SEC, ARE YOU SERIOUS?

...there's plenty of undignified to go around.
Arbor Magna.
Welcome back, Selene.
KRAK
She's all yours, Exodus.
Selene is a pretty mean telepath...but you come out of the eggs confused.
He takes control, finds the monster-off button and presses it.
The gate monster disintegrates and flies back to where it should be. Magic. Ptth.
K.RRK
Job's done.

CENTRAL PARK.
I'M SURPRISED YOU WANNA TRAIN AT NIGHT.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
COOL AIR. NO CROWDS. IT'S WAY BETTER THAN TRYING TO MAKE IT WORK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
<TRESPASSERS!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.
WHAT TH--?
AHHH!
KRAKOOM
<DID YOU THINK YOU COULD ENTER OUR DOMAIN AND NOT PAY WITH YOUR LIFE?>
OH MY GOD--
<THAT'S RIGHT, YOU FOOL!>
<TELL ALL HUMANS--THIS IS APE TERRITORY NOW!>
NEXT: APE JUSTICE, LIKE APE LIGHTNING!


There was an opportunity. I took it.
I broke none of our laws. Selene stomped all over them in her goth boots.
It was a huge risk, but... it's not even in the top ten worst things we've done here, right?
I dare say Selene's is the most grievous transgression of our most lovely of laws. We'd have been duty bound to throw her into the Hole anyway...
"Respect this sacred land."
Yes. Hell, save me from another trial.
That can wait until she works her way up the queue.

Hmm. I have a question, Hope.
Would you bring Selene back if she were at the top of the queue?

Best fancy voice, Summers...
I think we should table that discussion for now.
Nailed it.

NEXT
Hawkeye and Spectrum square off,
Persuasion launches her own perfume line, and--oh yeah--
SUPER APES CONQUER CENTRAL PARK!!!

Email us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark
your messages **"okay to print"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

I hope *now* you realize I'm not the messiah.
He did not.
Jesus didn't shoot *anyone* through the head.

This is another reason why you're a far superior kind of messiah, messiah.
Knock it off, you.

Hate to be the voice of caution, but...I'm not sure.
That power was significant. Perhaps it's worth bringing Selene back just to find out how she did it?
I don't think that ends well for you.

Hmm? Why the concern?
I've told you before, Nathaniel.
We must be on the same side.

Strange times and strange bedfellows. I didn't realize you were so close.
What was Irene implying?
I have no idea.
"We must be on the same side"?
She's told me no such thing.

ZONE

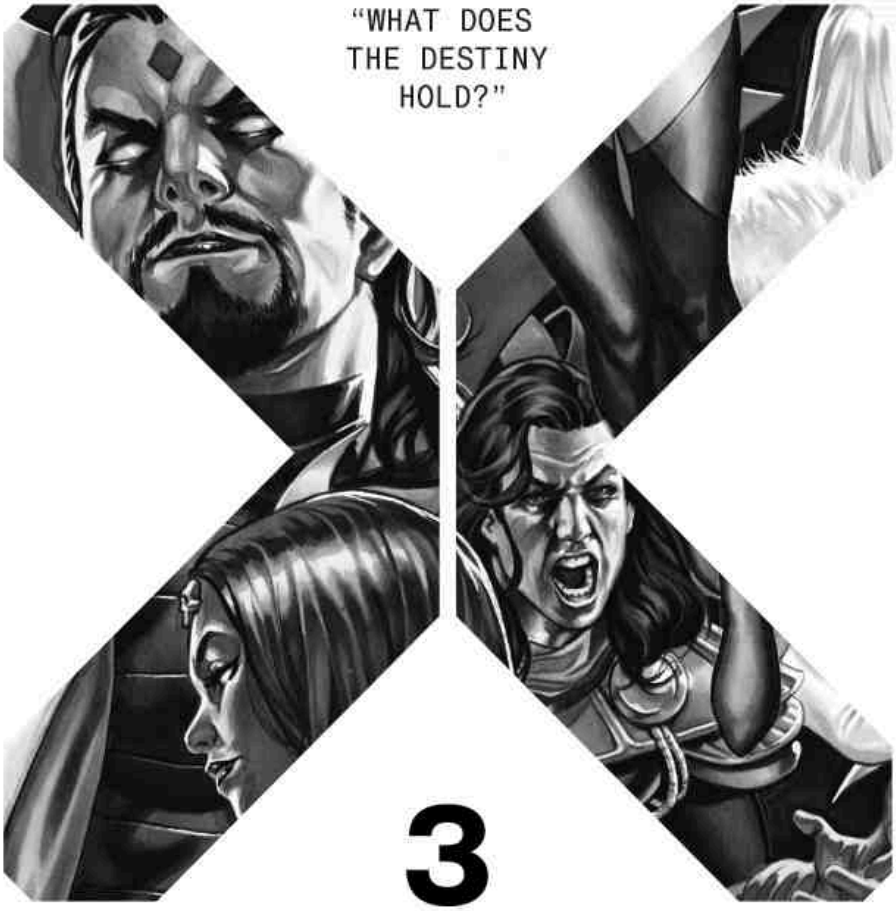
Oh, that was almost fun. I missed this. I missed everything. I...
...What's wrong?
I...don't know. That creature was a living disruption in time and space. I've felt queasy ever since.
It's not going away. It's...
I haven't felt like this since...

...over a century, at least.
I'm thinking of a bed, a summer...
No.

You're a ghost.
You're a ghost.
You're a ghost.

[Immortal_[0.2]

NEXT



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ZONE